

largely Virginian in character, the Maryland Assembly was stern against Governor Horatio Sharpe and refused to vote funds or raise troops. Edward Braddock, the British general deputed to drive back the French, operated within Western Maryland, but even his rout and death failed to spur Maryland.

Prelude to Revolution

The accession in 1751 of Frederick Calvert, a "gay young blade", to the title of Lord Baltimore meant less interference from the Proprietor, therefore Marylanders transferred their complaints from the Proprietary to the British Government. Conflict between French and English only sharpened the point. Debts to English merchants, lack of a proper colonial currency, and taxes on imports led Maryland, this time in common with other colonies, to take drastic action. The joint protest against the Townshend Acts was made ineffective by repeal of those laws, but a strong feeling of rebellion remained. Maryland takes credit for first refusing to pay taxes under the Stamp Act; categorical repudiation took place in Frederick County on November 23, 1765. Support of Boston was vigorous after that port was closed in 1774; and the Boston Tea Party had its counterpart when a tea ship, the *Peggy Stewart*, was burned in Annapolis harbor.

In both the First and Second Continental Congresses and in the signing of the Declaration of Independence (foreshadowed here by the Maryland "Association of Freemen," nearly a year earlier) Maryland played lead roles.

The Revolutionary War

From the first skirmish in Boston to the surrender at Yorktown, Maryland soldiers saw service. Despite alarms, only once did the British—by water at Vienna—set foot on Maryland soil. Pulaski's Legion was organized in Baltimore, Baron de Kalb and Lafayette spent some time in Maryland, and here it was that in 1783 the Continental Congress met. George Washington passed into civilian life in the Senate Chamber of the State House at Annapolis on December 23, 1783. The treaty with Great Britain, ending the war, was ratified in Annapolis.

Second British Conflict

On April 28, 1788 Maryland became the seventh state to ratify a constitution she had, through her leadership in the